

CLAIMS

1. A computer assisted integrated family information management system, comprising:
 - (a) a central control module containing at least one family data file;
 - (b) a user interface system for transferring information to and receiving information from said family data file of said central control module; and,
 - 5 (c) at least one information source connected to said central control module from which relevant family information is obtained;

wherein relevant family information obtained from said information source is processed with information stored in said family data file to create value-added family information which is accessible in said central control module through said user interface system.

2. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said central control module retrieves said relevant family information from said information source.
3. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said central control module accesses said relevant family information from said information source.
4. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is sent to said central control module by said information source.
5. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family

information is obtained by said central control module upon request of a member of said family.

6. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is obtained by said central control module upon recognition of a predetermined event.

7. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is obtained by said central control module at a predetermined time interval.

8. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is obtained by said central control module according to a predetermined time schedule.

9. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is obtained by said central control module according to family activity data within said system.

10. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said relevant family information is determined according to specified information in said family data file.

11. The family information management system of claim 1, said central control module

further comprising a data storage device in which said family data file is stored.

12. The family information management system of claim 1, said central control module further comprising a voice recognition system.

13. The family information management system of claim 1, said central control module further comprising means for providing messaging to users of said system.

14. The family information management system of claim 1, said central control module further comprising means for providing a reminder function to users of said system.

15. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said information source is internal to said system.

16. The family information management system of claim 1, wherein said information source is external to said system.

17. A method of managing information within members of a family, comprising the following steps:

(a) storing user information in at least one family data file contained within a central control module;

(b) obtaining relevant family information from at least one information source;

5

- (c) processing said relevant family information with information in said family data file to create value-added family information; and,
- (d) providing access to said value-added family information via a user interface system connected to said central control module.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of determining said relevant family information according to specified information in said family data file.

19. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step further comprising retrieving said relevant family information from said information source.

20. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step further comprising accessing said relevant family information from said information source.

21. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step further comprising receiving said relevant family information initiated by and sent from said information source.

22. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step being initiated by a request of a member of said family.

23. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step being initiated by said central control module

upon recognition of a predetermined event.

24. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step being initiated by said central control module at a predetermined time interval.

25. The method of claim 17, said obtaining step being initiated by said central control module according to a predetermined time schedule.

26. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of forwarding said value-added family information to designated family members in a timely and synchronized manner.

27. A method for enhancing use of a family information management system including a central control module with at least one family profile stored therein, comprising the following steps:

(a) obtaining each said family profile stored in said central control module;

5 (b) accessing said family information system for the retrieval of family activity data stored in said central control module; and,

(c) analyzing said family activity data to improve the services and products provided to the users of said family information management system.

28. A method for developing consumer understanding information relating to family

lifestyles, comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a family information management system including a central control module with at least one family profile stored therein;
- 5 (b) obtaining said family profiles stored in said central control module;
- (c) accessing said family information system for the retrieval of family activity data stored in said central control module; and,
- (d) analyzing said family activity data to improve the services and products provided to the users of said family information management system.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of generating said family activity data from information stored in said family data file and communication between users of said family information management system.

30. The method of claim 28, said central control module being accessible via an Internet connection.

31. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of surveying family members through said central control module for the generation of family activity data.

32. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of suggesting products and services in said central control module based upon analyzed family activity data.

33. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of suggesting communication with other families based on similar family activity data.

34. A computer assisted integrated family information management system, comprising:

(a) a central control module including at least one family data file for storage of information relating to members of a family;

(b) a user interface system for transferring information to and receiving information from said family data file of said central control module, said user interface system operating in a voice mode from a remote location;

wherein information entered into said central control module from said user interface system is converted from voice information to text information and information received by said user interface system from said central control module is converted from text information to voice information.

35. The family information management system of claim 34, further comprising at least one information source connected to said central control module from which relevant family information is obtained for storage in said family data file, wherein said relevant family information obtained from said information source is processed with information in said family data file to create value-added family information accessible via said central control module.

36. A method of managing information within members of a family, comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a central control module including at least one family data file for storage of
5 information relating to members of a family;
- (b) accessing said central control module via a user interface system operating in a voice mode;
- (c) providing information verbally to said central control module from a remote location;
- (d) converting said verbal information into text information; and,
- 10 (e) enabling said family members to access said text information in said central control module.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of converting text information in said central control module to voice information for receipt by said user interface system.